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Fall 9-1-2007

LS 151L.01: Introduction to the Humanities

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LS 151.01
Introduction to the Humanities
MWF 9:10-10:00, LA 338
Plenary Lecture R 11:10-12:00 ULH
and 7:10-8:00 SS 352

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Texts: *New Oxford Annotated Bible*
 Homer, *Odyssey* (Fagles Translation)
 Three Plays of Euripides (Roche Translation)
 Sophocles I (Greene Translation)
 Greek Lyric (Miller Translation)
 Plato, *Five Dialogues* (Grube Translation)
 Virgil, *Aeneid* (Penguin Classics)
 Saint Augustine, *The Confessions* (Boulding Translation)
 Additional Readings on ERES

Course Description: LS 151 is an introduction to the Western Humanities through an investigation of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, classical Greek civilization, the New Testament and early Christian literature. The goal is to explore Western Culture through its Jewish, Greek, Roman and Christian heritages while developing critical approaches for analyzing literature. Topics will include: conception of the self, family, community, and cosmos; the role of myth, symbols, and rituals; the human condition; interpretations of the heroic; conceptions of good and evil; the role of gender, class, and ethnicity; the nature of the good life; conceptions of creation, time, and temporality; the language of love and desire; ideas of virtue, wisdom, piety, justice, and law; the individual and the state.

Classroom Etiquette: No food will be allowed in class. Students should arrive on time. All cell phones must be turned off. Students may use laptop computers to take notes. Students should not access the internet while in class.

Attendance: This is a discussion course and attendance is required. After 2 unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered one notch for each subsequent absence (A to A-). An excess of 6 absences can result in an F in the course. A failure to prepare and participate may also be grounds for being counted absent. Tardiness will not be tolerated. Two tardies will equal one absence. There will be NO make-up exams or late submission of homework for unexcused absences. If you are sick or have some other emergency, please contact me. Failure to attend the first two classes will result in the student being dropped.

Methods: The MWF class is not a lecture course. It is a reading, discussion, and writing course. I will present certain biographical, historical and cultural information to provide you with a context for your readings, discussions, and writings. I will propose my own interpretations of the texts we read, but you are not expected to accept these interpretations blindly. Each reader brings his or her own experiences to a literary text. If you disagree with my reading of a text, you should feel free to say so. Your active participation is essential and counts as part of your grade.

You will hear many different opinions and ideas during this course, some of which you may disagree with. I expect each student to respect the opinions and beliefs of his or her classmates and for the level of discourse in class to remain civil and academic.

Plenary Lecture: The fourth credit of this class is the Thursday Plenary Lecture. Attendance at one of the two lecture times is **mandatory—Thursday 11:10-12:00, ULH; or 7:10-8:00, SS 352.** You are required to submit response papers based on the lectures and information from them will be included on quizzes and exams.

Plenary Lecture Dates and Topics:

8/30	Introduction to the Humanities	Paul Dietrich
9/6	The Bible in the University	Nathaniel Levtow
9/13	Prophets & Prophecy	Nathaniel Levtow
9/20	Wisdom Literature	Tom Lee
9/27	Intro to Greek Civilization	Matthew Semanoff
10/4	Hero and Antihero in Homer	Stewart Justman
10/11	Gender and Sexuality in Greek Lyric	Beth Hubble
10/18	The Broken Urn: Greek Tragedy	Stewart Justman
10/25	Plato and Greek Philosophy	Paul Muench
11/1	Hellenistic Religions in the Mediterranean	Nathaniel Levtow
11/8	The New Testament—the Gospels	Tom Lee
11/15	The Letters of Paul (Romans)	Mark Hanson
11/22	Thanksgiving	
11/29	Augustine's <i>Confessions</i>	Phil Fandozzi
12/6	Roman and Early Christian Art	Paul Dietrich

Grading:

Preparation and Participation (inc. quizzes and reading questions):	20%
Composition (5% for Rough Draft)	30%
Response Papers:	10%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	20%

Grading Scale:

93-100%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-
59% and below	F

Preparation and Participation: Coming to class prepared, i.e. having read all material and attended the plenary lecture, and ready to participate in discussions is essential and counts for a large percentage of your final grade. Participation does not merely mean responding when called upon but showing a willingness to raise your hand and enter discussions. For each class session you must prepare 2 questions from the readings for that session for a total of 6 per week. You must turn in your questions with each response paper. Questions may be handwritten. Your questions will direct our class discussions and you will regularly be required to share them with the class. Classroom work will include both general discussions and small group discussions. Quizzes on lecture and readings may be given at the beginning of class as needed.

Compositions: You will write one formal composition this semester of 5-7 pages. A few weeks prior to the due date you will be required to submit a rough draft of your composition (minimum of 3.5 pages). Essays must conform to the basic standards of proper composition. They should be typed, double-spaced with 12-point font, 1-inch margins. Compositions must be carefully organized with proper paragraphing, correct sentence structure, and appropriate punctuation. You will be graded not just on content but also on organization, rhetorical skills, strength of argument including supporting evidence, and adherence to the convention of standard, written English.

I will provide you with a handout with tips on writing compositions. Composition topics will be distributed one month before the composition is due.

You may wish to visit the following website for information about formatting your essay:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/research/r_mla.html

An essay is not an occasion to show how well you can quote, paraphrase or summarize an author, but how well you can think as an explorer of the work and ideas of your author. Any utilization of the words or work of others (including ideas) in an essay, oral presentation, or exam must be given full reference credit. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. If you have questions about proper citation and/or plagiarism, please see me.

Response Papers: In addition to the formal composition you will write this semester, you will also be expected to write one-page responses to the plenary lectures and readings each week. There is no specific format for your response papers. The sole requirement is that they show some engagement and reflection on the material presented by the lecturer and make links with the readings for class. Your responses papers must be typed, double-spaced with 12-point font, 1-inch margins. You must either e-mail or turn in a hard copy of your response paper by the Monday following the lecture. You will be allowed to drop or skip one response paper over the course of the semester.

Exams: You will take two exams this semester. The exams will consist of short essays and identifications from the material studied. The final exam will cover themes studied during the whole semester but will concentrate on the readings and lectures since the mid-term.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments (subject to change)

Response Papers and Reading Questions Due Every Monday (Wednesday 9/5 & 11/12)

August 27 Introduction to Course
 August 29 *Genesis* 1-11
 August 31 *Genesis* 12-35

September 3 Labor Day
 September 5 *Exodus* (esp. 1-34)
 September 7 *Deuteronomy*

September 10 *Isaiah* 1-5, 45-66
 September 12 *Amos, Jonah*
 September 14 *Job* 1-19

September 17 *Job* 20-42
 September 19 *Song of Solomon, Ruth*
 September 21 *Esther, Judith* in the Apocrypha

September 24 *Odyssey* 1-4
 September 26 *Odyssey* 5-8
 September 28 *Odyssey* 9-12

Distribution of Composition Topics

October 1 *Odyssey* 13-16
 October 3 *Odyssey* 17-20
 October 5 *Odyssey* 21-24

October 8 Greek Lyric: Archilochus, Alcaeus, Anacreon
 October 10 Sappho, Solon, Stesichorus, Xenophanes
 October 12 **Mid-Term Exam**

October 15 Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*
 October 17 Sophocles, *Antigone*
 October 19 Euripides, *Medea*

October 22 Euripides, *The Bacchae*
 October 24 Writing Workshop
 October 26 Plato, *Euthyphro* and *Apology*

Rough Draft Due in Class

October 29 Plato, *Crito* and *Phaedo*
 October 31 Virgil, *Aeneid*, Books 1-4
 November 2 Virgil, *Aeneid*, Books 5-8

November 5 Virgil, *Aeneid*, Books 9-12
November 7 The New Testament—Gospels: *Mark*
November 9 *Matthew*

November 12 Veteran's Day
November 14 *Luke*
November 16 *John*

Composition Due

November 19 *Acts of the Apostles*
November 21 Thanksgiving
November 23 Thanksgiving

November 26 *Romans, 1st Corinthians*
November 28 St. Augustine, *Confessions*, Preface, Chronology, Books 1-2
November 30 St. Augustine, Books 2-4

December 3 St. Augustine, Books 5-7
December 5 St. Augustine, Books 8-10
December 7 Last Day of Class

December 14 **Final Exam** 8-10am (Friday)